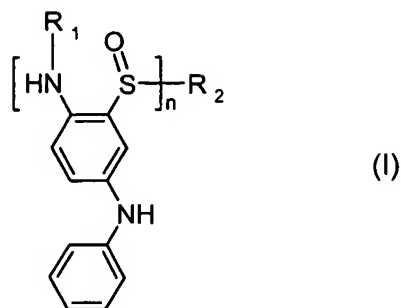


1. (original) A compound of the formula I



wherein

$R_1$  is  $C_1$ - $C_{18}$ alkyl,  $C_5$ - $C_{12}$ -cycloalkyl, phenyl, benzyl, or allyl;

$n$  is 1 or 2;

if  $n$  is 1,  $R_2$  is  $C_4$ - $C_{18}$ alkyl,  $C_5$ - $C_{12}$ -cycloalkyl, aryl or heteroaryl, benzyl, allyl,  $(CH_2)_mCOOR_3$ , or is  $(CH_2)_mCN$ ;

if  $n$  is 2,  $R_2$  is  $-S-(CH_2)_p-S$  or  $-S-(CH_2)_2-[O-(CH_2)_2]_m-S-$

$R_3$  is  $C_1$ - $C_{18}$ alkyl, benzyl, allyl;

$m$  is 1 or 2; and

$p$  is a number from 2 to 12.

2. (original) Compound of formula I according to claim 1 wherein

$R_1$  is  $C_2$ - $C_8$ -alkyl, cyclohexyl, phenyl, benzyl, or allyl,

if  $n$  is 1,  $R_2$  is  $C_4$ - $C_{18}$ alkyl, cyclohexyl, benzyl, phenyl,  $(CH_2)_2COOR_3$ , or is  $(CH_2)_2CN$ ;

if  $n$  is 2,  $R_2$  is  $-S-(CH_2)_p-S$  or  $-S-(CH_2)_2-[O-(CH_2)_2]_m-S-$ ;

$R_3$  is  $C_1$ - $C_{18}$ alkyl; and

$p$  is a number from 2 to 6.

3. (currently amended) A composition comprising

a) a naturally occurring or synthetic elastomer susceptible to oxidative, thermal, dynamic, light-induced and/or ozone-induced degradation, and

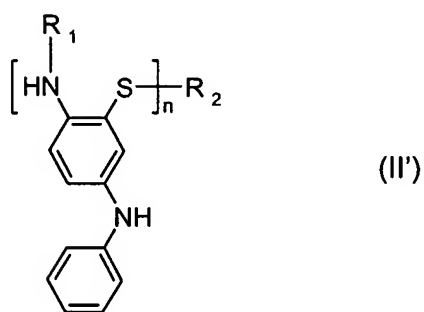
b) as stabilizer, at least one compound of the formula I according to claim 1 ~~[[, ]]~~ especially in an amount from 0.05 to 10%, based on the weight of component a).

4. (original) A composition according to claim 3, in which component a) is a natural or synthetic rubber or a vulcanizate prepared therefrom.

5. (original) A composition according to claim 4, in which component a) is a polydiene vulcanizate, a halogen-containing polydiene vulcanizate, a polydiene copolymer vulcanizate or an ethylene-propylene terpolymer vulcanizate.

6. (currently amended) A composition according to claim 3, further comprising one or more components selected from the group consisting of pigments, dyes, fillers, levelling assistants, dispersants, plasticizers, vulcanization activators, vulcanization accelerators, vulcanizers, charge control agents, adhesion promoters, antioxidants, flame retardants, UV absorbers and light stabilizers, especially phenolic antioxidants, aminic antioxidants, organic phosphites or phosphonites and/or thio-synergists.

7. (currently amended) A thioether of formula II'

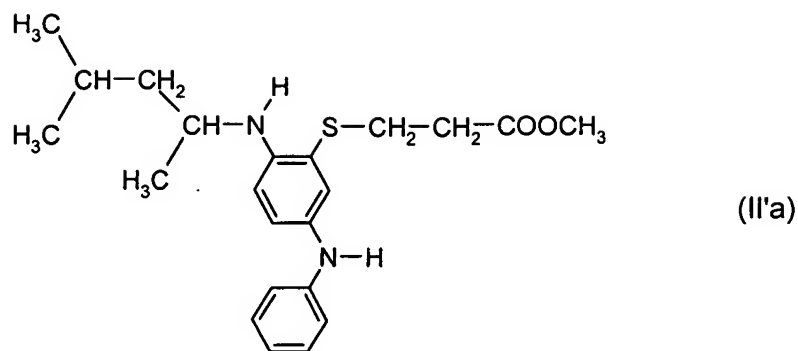


wherein n is 1 or 2,

R<sub>1</sub> is C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>alkyl, C<sub>5</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>-cycloalkyl, phenyl, benzyl, or allyl; and

R<sub>2</sub>, if n is 1, is tert-nonyl or tert-dodecyl or (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>COOR<sub>3</sub> or (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>CN, where R<sub>3</sub> is C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>alkyl, especially i-octyl, i-tridecyl, n-dodecyl, stearyl; or

R<sub>2</sub>, if n is 2, is -S-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>p</sub>-S- with p ranging from 2 to 6; with the proviso that the compound of the formula II'a



is excluded.

**8. (currently amended)** A method of grafting a compound of formula I according to claim 1 onto an elastomer, which method comprises heating a mixture of elastomer and at least one compound of formula I ~~according to claim 1~~ above the softening point of the elastomer and allowing them to react with one another.

**9. (canceled)**

**10. (original)** A process for stabilizing an elastomer to prevent oxidative, thermal, dynamic, light-induced and/or ozone-induced degradation and preventing contact discoloration of substrates coming into contact with the elastomer, which process comprises incorporating into these or applying to these at least one compound of formula I according to claim 1.

**11. (new)** A composition comprising according to claim 3 where the at least one compound of the formula I is present in an amount from 0.05 to 10%, based on the weight of component a).

**12. (new)** A thioether of formula II' according to claim 7 where  $R_2$ , if n is 1, is tert-nonyl or tert-dodecyl or  $(CH_2)_2COOR_3$  or  $(CH_2)_2CN$ , where  $R_3$  is i-octyl, i-tridecyl, n-dodecyl or stearyl.